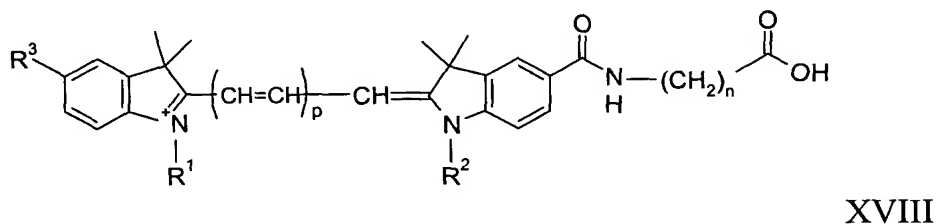


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 33.           **CANCELED**

34.     (New)           A cyanine dye of formula XVIII,



in which

p           is 1, 2 or 3,

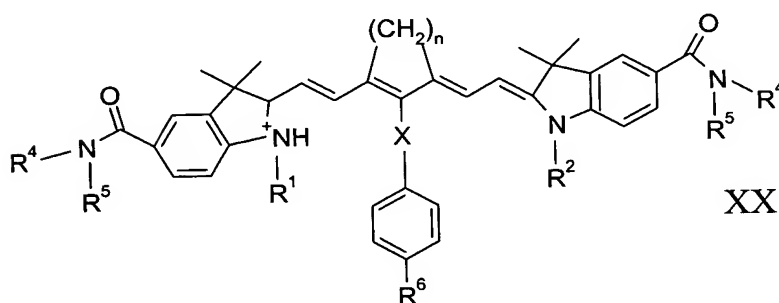
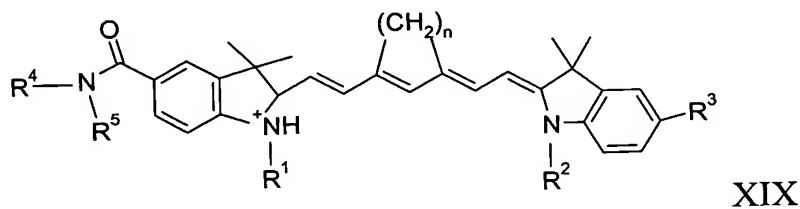
n           is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 10,

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl, 3-sulfopropyl, 2-sulfoethyl, 3-methyl-3-sulfopropyl, methyl, ethyl or propyl radical, and

R<sup>3</sup>           is hydrogen or a radical -COOE<sup>1</sup>, -CONE<sup>1</sup>E<sup>2</sup>, -NHCOE<sup>1</sup>,  
-NHCONHE<sup>1</sup>, -NE<sup>1</sup>E<sup>2</sup>, -OE<sup>1</sup>, -OSO<sub>3</sub>E<sup>1</sup>, -SO<sub>3</sub>E<sup>1</sup>, or -SO<sub>2</sub>NHE<sup>1</sup>,

where E<sup>1</sup> and E<sup>2</sup>, independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom or a methyl, ethyl or a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical, which is optionally interrupted by 0 to 2 oxygen atoms and/or by 0 to 1 carbonyl groups and/or is substituted by 0 to 5 hydroxy groups.

35. (New) A cyanine dye of formula XIX or XX



in which

n is 2 or 3,

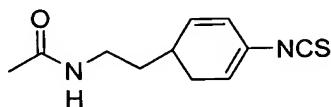
R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl, 3-sulfopropyl or 2-sulfoethyl radical,

R<sup>3</sup> is a -COOH group or one of the following radicals:

-CONH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-COOH with n = 2 or 3,

-CONH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-NCS with n = 2 or 3,

-CONH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-NHCO-CH<sub>2</sub>-X<sup>1</sup> with n = 2 or 3 and X<sup>1</sup> = Cl, Br, I



R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom, a methyl radical or a hydroxylated alkyl radical,

R<sup>6</sup> is one of the following groups:

$-(CH_2)_m-COOH$  with  $m = 0$  to  $2$ ,

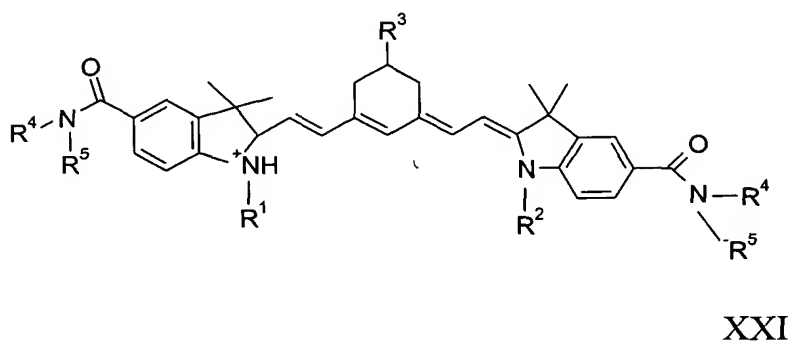
$-(CH_2)_m-NCS$  with  $m = 0$  to  $2$ ,

$-(CH_2)_m-CONH-peptide$  with  $m = 0$  to  $2$ ,

$-(CH_2)_m-NH-CS-NH-peptide$  with  $m = 0$  to  $2$ ,

and  $X$  is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

36. (New) A cyanine dye of formula XXI



in which

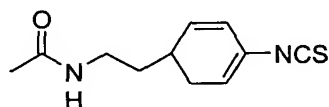
$R^1$  and  $R^2$ , independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl- or 3-sulfopropyl radical,

$R^3$  is a  $-COOH$  group or one of the following radicals:

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-COOH$  with  $n = 2$  or  $3$ ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NCS$  with  $n = 2$  or  $3$ ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NHCO-CH_2-X^1$  with  $n = 2$  or  $3$  and  $X^1 = Cl, Br, I$



and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$ , independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom, a methyl radical or a hydroxylated alkyl radical.

37. (New) An analog of the vaso-active intestinal peptide, which is of one of the following sequences:

His-Trp-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 1);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Phe-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 2);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Lys-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 3);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Gln-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 4);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Arg-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 5);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Trp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 6);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 7); or

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Arg-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 8).